

OP Iraqi Freedom

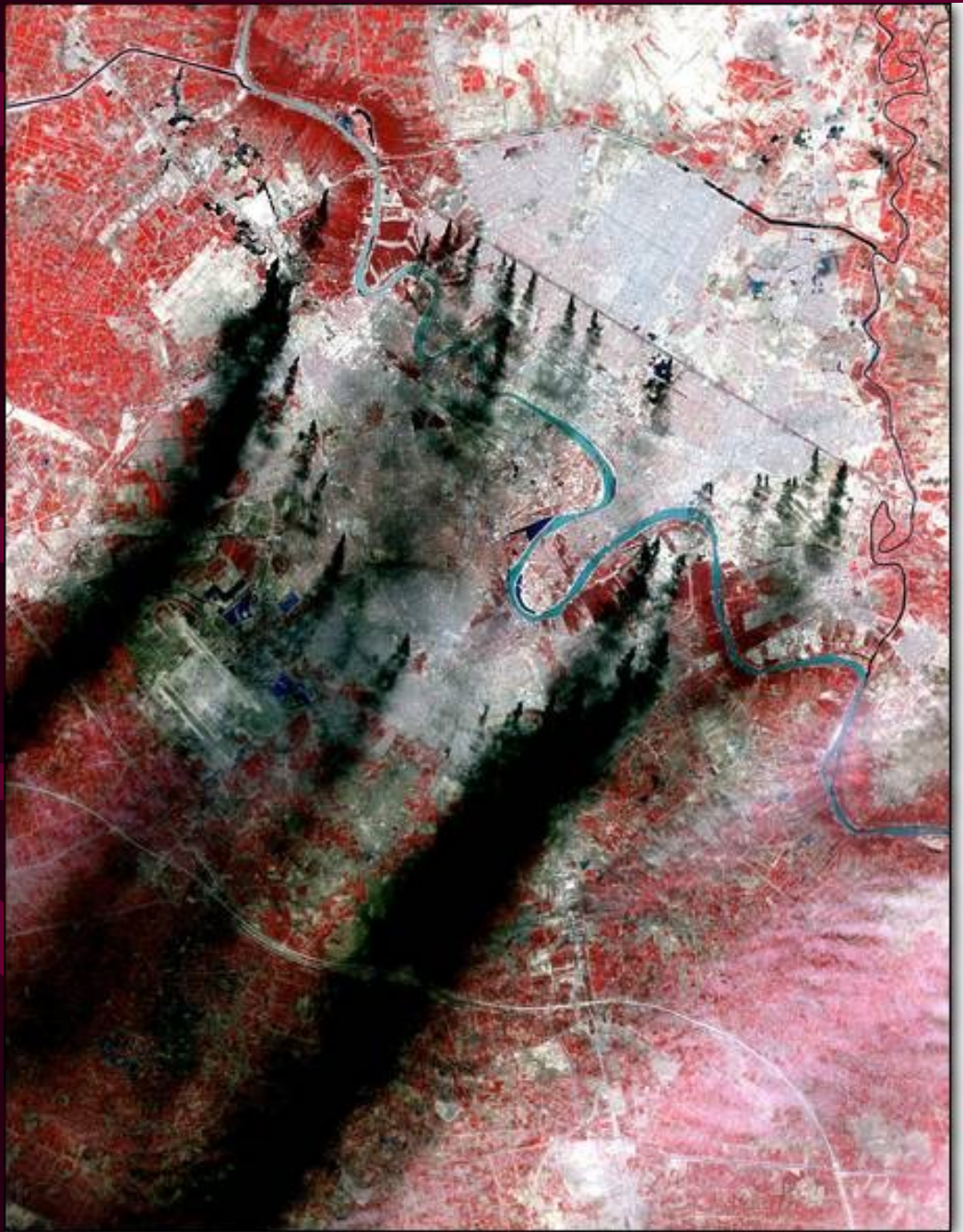


- Heated words
A U.S. Marine of the 24th Expeditionary Unit asks a man to back up on Monday in Qal'at Sukkar, 62 miles north of Nasariyah, Iraq.



John Moore / AP

- Under attack
U.S. Army Pfc. Johnson crawls on a rooftop after Iraqi forces fired on soldiers from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment from across the Tigris River in Baghdad on Monday. The Americans were occupying a presidential palace they had taken over earlier in the day.



NASA / Getty Images

- Smoke over Baghdad
This NASA satellite image shows black smoke billowing over downtown Baghdad and the Baghdad airport, below left of center, last week. Vegetation is shown in red.



Laurent Rebours / AP

- Combat ready
Marine Cpl. Hector
Ayala of Los Angeles
sharpens his knife after
his unit secured a key
bridge on the outskirts
of the Baghdad on
Monday.



- **Show of defiance**
An Iraqi police officer brandishes his weapons for foreign journalists outside the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad on Monday.



Desmond Boylan / Reuters

- Grim task
A member of the Mortuary Affairs Unit works in a destroyed U.S. Amphibious Assault Vehicle in Nasiriyah in southern Iraq on Sunday. Eight Marines died when the vehicle was hit in what was reported to be a "friendly fire" incident in the early days of the war.



Behrouz Mehri / AFP

- **Blown bridge**
An Iraqi Kurdish "peshmerga" fighter stands on a bridge destroyed by retreating Iraqi troops, on the way to the Iraqi government-controlled town of Laylan, some 15 miles southeast of Kirkuk, on Sunday.



- At the palace gates
A U.S. Army M-1 Abrams tank crew take a break in front of a presidential palace near Baghdad's international airport, Monday. American forces raided three of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces in and near the capital, including his main compound in the center of the city.



Romeo Gacad / AFP

- A glimpse at Saddam's private world
U.S. Army soldiers from the a combat team of the 3rd Infantry Division look at a the reception room of a presidential palace near the international airport outside Baghdad, Monday. It was one of three of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces raided by American forces in and near the capital.



Laurent Rebours / AP

- In shock
A Navy corpsman with the Marines' 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, tends to a wounded comrade after an artillery shell hit a troop transport at a bridge leading into Baghdad on Monday. Two Marines were killed and two others were wounded in the incident, according to U.S. military officials.



John Moore / AP

- Delighted to be alive
Army Sgts. Paul Ingram of Athens, Ohio, left, and Thomas Slago of Woodland Hills, Calif., celebrate after a firefight with Iraqi irregular forces south of Baghdad on Sunday.



- **Royal repose**
Forces from the 42 Commando Royal Marines, rest in Saddam Hussein's Palace, after taking the complex on Monday. The men are sleeping in one of the state rooms on the front of the Shattal Arab waterways.



- A soldier with Charlie Company 2-7 Infantry tasked with the 3-69 Task Force, waves a victory sign from the upper floor of one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Baghdad to other infantry soldiers as the Task Force takes control of the palace complex, Monday, April 7, 2003 in Baghdad



- U.S. Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment smash a gate as they secure positions around a key bridge leading into Baghdad in the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Monday, April 7, 2003. Two Marines were killed Monday when their Amtrack troop transporter was hit by an artillery shell at a bridge over a canal on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Lt. Col.B.P. McCoy said Monday.



- **A U.S. soldier aboard an armored vehicle points a gun at a smoldering Iraqi vehicle in western Baghdad Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **U.S. tanks pass by the banks of the Tigris river as they roll into Baghdad, outside Saddam Hussein's presidential palace, Monday April 7, 2003. Coalition soldiers took over key buildings Monday.**



- **U.S. Army soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, secure one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, damaged after a bombing in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **U.S. Army Spc. Harrison Grimes from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, walks past the damaged model of the Saddam Hussein palace he is searching, after a bombing in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **An Iraqi tank, right, is on fire next to a destroyed Iraqi armored vehicle after being attacked by U.S. military in Baghdad Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **U.S. Marines of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, take positions as they secure a key bridge leading into Baghdad in the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Monday, April 7, 2003. Two Marines were killed Monday when their Amtrack troop transporter was hit by an artillery shell at a bridge over a canal on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Lt. Col.B.P. McCoy said Monday.**



- **A British soldier looks out of a building after coming under fire as coalition forces move into Basra, Iraq, to secure the city, Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **An Iraqi man pushes a cart loaded with his children past a U.S. military checkpoint in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, on Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **Sgt. Christopher Ferguson of Task Force 2-69 Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga., mans a 50-caliber machine gun during a push forward Monday, April 7, 2003, in northern Baghdad.**



- **Charlie Company Task Force 1-64 of the 3rd ID rolls into downtown Baghdad on Monday morning, April 7, 2003. (AP Photo/Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Brant Sanderlin)**



- **Charlie Company 1st Sgt. Jose Mercado looks at a statue of Saddam Hussein that his company destroyed only minutes before, in downtown Baghdad, Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **U.S. Army Stf. Sgt. Chad Touchett, center, relaxes with comrades from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, following a search in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces damaged after a bombing, in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003.**



- **Task Force 2-69 Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning Georgia is on the front line of the Army advance on northern Baghdad, Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **U.S. Cpl. Ward Williamson from Atlanta, GA., of the 3rd battalion, 4th Marines regiment, gives order to his platoon during combat with Iraqi gunmen to secure a key bridge into Baghdad, on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **Lance Cpl. Elios Pelaez, left, of Los Angeles, right, and Lance Cpl. Stephen Ferris of Walpole, Mass., search a building at an alleged terrorist training facility in Salman Pak, a small town about 20 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraq Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **US forces advance on northern Baghdad, Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **Third Infantry Division forces take up positions behind a statue at the headquarters of the Republican Guard's Medina Division Saturday, April 5, 2003 south of Baghdad. U.S. troops went in to clear the compound, which had been bombed earlier. No Iraqi soldiers were found.**



- **A U.S. Marine with India Co., 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, crosses an open field as a fire rages following air and artillery strikes at an Iraqi army training camp southeast of Baghdad Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **A British military vehicle, seen in an image from video, fires an anti-tank missile while probing the outskirts of Basra, Iraq, for Iraqi resistance.**



- **U.S. Marines with India Co., 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, watch as a fire rages following an air and artillery strike against an Iraqi army training camp southeast of Baghdad early Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **Charlie Company 1-64 Task Force 3rd Infantry Division soldiers, from left front, Sgt. Mark Strunk; Spc. Paul Helgenberger; back from left, Cpt. Jason Conroy; and Lt. Roger Gruneisen carry an injured soldier to a medivac chopper, Saturday April 5, 2003 during their advance through Baghdad.**



- **U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, carrying Iraqi automatic rifles they found during a search of military barracks in the outskirts of Baghdad, walk past a damaged building on which the Iraqi flag is painted, Sunday, April 6, 2003. U.S. troops in tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles made their first foray into Baghdad, taking out several Republic Guard positions before pulling out. The soldiers later destroyed the weapons.**



- **U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, take positions during combat with Iraqi gunmen to secure a key bridge into Baghdad, on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- Again, here are U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, this time on a roof during combat with Iraqi gunmen to secure a key bridge (metal trusses visible at right) into Baghdad.



- After 18 days since the war started, thousands of U.S.-led coalition troops are spread throughout Iraq, in small patrols and checkpoints. Here is a third photo of U.S. Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, during combat with Iraqi gunmen Sunday, April 6, 2003.



- **Lcpl. Stephen Ferris of Walpole, Mass. searches a building at an alleged terrorist training facility in Salman Pak, a small town about 20 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraq Sunday, April 6, 2003.**



- **Marines with India Co., 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines guard a convoy stopped along a road just south of Baghdad.**



- **A coalition soldier, seen in this image from video, guards a man taken into custody at the home of an alleged Baat'h party member in Basra, Iraq, Saturday, April 5, 2003.**



- **U.S. Marines of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5, Pfc. James Emerson of Billings, Mont., right, and Cpl. Kourtney Redmond of Chicago, yell over the loud engine noise as they travel further north into Iraq.**



- **A semi-trailer truck full of ammunition is exploded by the Marines of the Second Tank Battalion during an advance on the outskirts of Baghdad**



- **U.S. Marines fire artillery near the town of Kut, Iraq. U.S. forces battled suicide attacks and fought at close range with Republican Guard fighters and Baath Party paramilitaries.**



- **Four Iraqi men place their hands on their heads as they surrender, to U.S. Marines, during fighting in the town of Kut. U.S. Marines battled suicide attacks and fought at close range with Republican Guard fighters and Baath Party irregulars Thursday in Kut, but many civilians waved white flags and welcomed the troops.**



- **Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine regiment, search the town of Al Azaziyah. An unspecified number of soldiers with the Republican Guard were captured and a cache of munitions, discovered in a school, was destroyed.**



- On the road north towards Baghdad, an Iraqi T-55 tank, destroyed by a U.S. Marine M1A1 tank, burns. Kilo Company of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, took the town of Al Azaziyah. Two Marines suffered non-life threatening injuries during the firefight. An unspecified number of Republican Guard soldiers were captured.



- Fires from secondary explosions of an Iraqi SA-6 surface-to-air missile burn on the outskirts of Karbala, Iraq. Missiles on board the SA-6 "cooked off" and ignited, causing a large explosion which threw debris in every direction.



- **A fuel tank burns in a hangar at Saddam International Airport near Baghdad Friday morning, April 4, 2003, as a Bradley fighting vehicle keeps watch. U.S. infantry occupied part of the airport early Friday.**



- **Officers of U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 69th Regiment Armor Task Force 3-69, sit atop the commanding officer's tank, talking over operational status as the task force continued the taking of the Saddam Hussein International Airport early Friday morning, April 4, 2003. The fighting for the airport began when Charlie Company/2-7 Infantry found a hole in the perimeter wall and entered the airfield.**



- **U.S. Army medics with the 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, treat an Iraqi army captain who was wounded and taken prisoner of war near Baghdad. The officer was later reported to have died.**



- **Members of the British A company Mortar Platoon, 1 Parachute Regiment, fire their mortar, as they prepare a defensive position just outside Basra, southern Iraq.**



- **A tank crew with Task Force 2-69 Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Benning, Ga., waits for the midnight seige of Karbala to begin Wednesday, April 2, 2003. Troops from the 2-69 entered the city and engaged in heavy fighting throughout the night.**



- **Armored artillery of U.S. Army 3rd infantry division fires toward Iraq's Republican Guard, the most loyal force to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in the suburbs of Karbala, Iraq, on Wednesday, April 2, 2003.**



- In this image from video, a soldier, center, from the 75th Ranger Regiment searches for targets as a fellow soldier fires a grenade during a nighttime firefight in southern Iraq.



- A U.S. Marine attached to the 15th Marines Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable [15th MEU SOC]) dashes over foothills and trenches while conducting a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Zubayr, southern Iraq, in this March 23, 2003, photo made available Wednesday, April 2, 2003.



- **Two CH-46's Sea Knights and a UH-60 Blackhawk land on a road near the airstrip at Jalibah, southern Iraq, to take on additional fuel before continuing their mission northward, in this March 25, photo made available Wednesday April 2, 2003.**



- **U.S. Army 3rd infantry division soldiers get ready for further attacks on Iraqi troops in the suburbs of Karbala, south of Baghdad in central Iraq, Wednesday, April 2, 2003.**



- **A rocket marks the beginning of the midnight siege of Karbala, Iraq, Tuesday, April 1, 2003, by soldiers with Task Force 2-69 Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga. The siege began with heavy bombing by artillery, F-15 and A-10 planes and the MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System). Troops from 2-69 were engaged in heavy fighting until dawn April 2.**



- **Soldiers from 40 Commando of the Queens Dragoon Guards fire at Iraqi positions in the Date Groves, south of Basra in southern Iraq, Sunday, March 30, 2003.**



- **Iraqi militia surrender as 40 Commando Royal Marines move into Abu Al Khasib, a suburb of Basra in southern Iraq.**



- **Soldiers serving with the Number 2 Company, the 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards, look to one of their commanders, in an armored personnel carrier, for the location of the Iraqi firing positions, on the outskirts of Basra.**